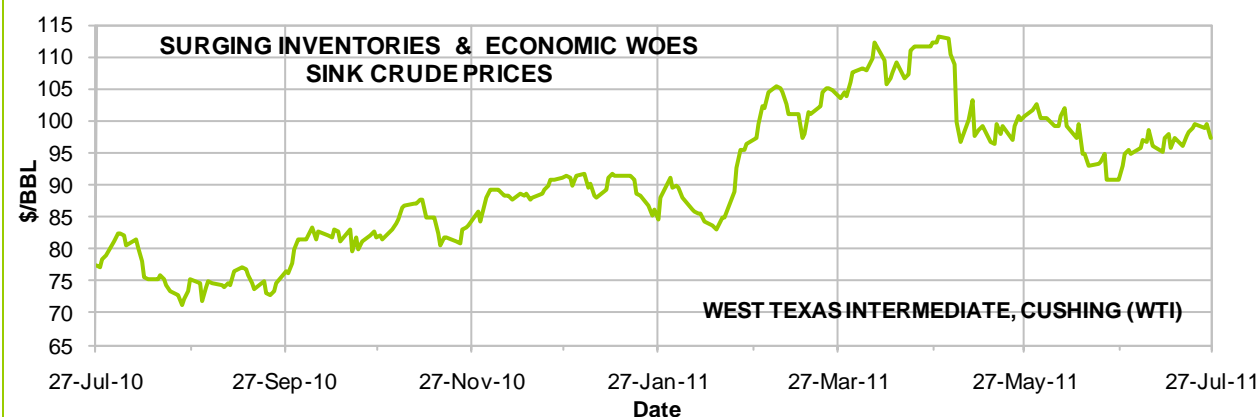


## Crude Oil



Despite a decline in production, increased imports and a fall in crude inputs to refineries led to a surprise 2.3 million barrel inventory growth this past week. A 1.7 million barrel decline had been expected. This was the first inventory growth in 8 weeks and the increase was almost twice the 5-year average. Inventories have worsened to 1.6% below last year but have improved to 5.0% above the 5-year average.

Crude oil prices fell this week because of surging inventories, a stronger dollar, weak demand, and sovereign debt problems. Futures prices settled at \$99.71, down 52 cents for the week. Futures are \$19.78 (24.7%) higher than a year ago. Spot prices fell by 71 cents for the week. At \$97.38, they are \$19.92 (25.7%) higher than last year. Futures and spot prices are about \$47 (32%) below their 2008 peaks.

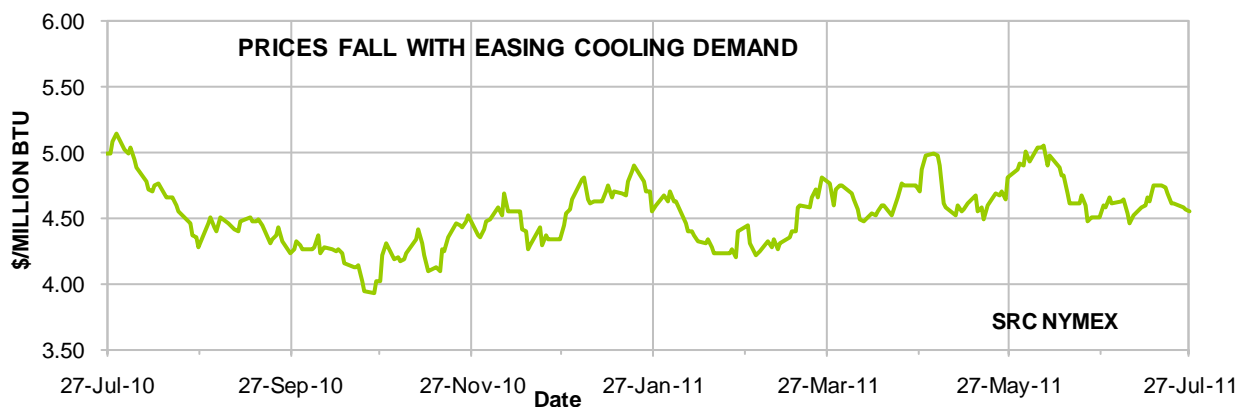


## Natural gas



Natural gas inventories grew by 43 BCF this past week. This was 16.2% greater than the expected gain of 37 BCF but 11.7% below the 5-year average gain of 49 BCF. The gain was 37.4% higher than last year's gain of 31 BCF. As a result, this week's 2,714 BCF inventory level has improved to 6.9% below last year's level but worsened to 2.3% below the 5-year average. Cumulative injections this year are running 10.1% below last year and 6.9% below the 5-year average.

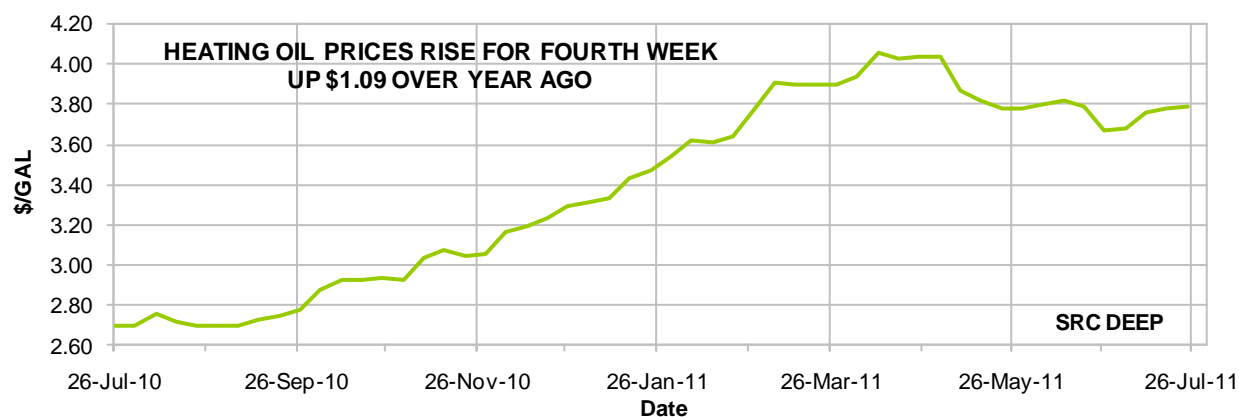
Cooler summer weather eased air conditioning demand and pushed prices lower this past week. Futures prices fell by 13.7 cents this week. Futures settled at \$4.558 per million BTU. This was 43.0 cents (8.6%) lower than a year ago and 65.8% below the 2008 peak. Spot prices fell by 19 cents. They settled at \$4.46 per million BTU, 25 cents (5.3%) lower than a year ago. Spot prices are 66.5% below their 2008 peak. According to census data, 31% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with natural gas.





Inventories grew by 3.4 million barrels for the second straight week as imports surged by 75%. The weekly gain was twice the 5-year average gain of 1.65 million and 78% above the expected gain of 1.9 million. Inventories now trail last year by only 9.3%. At 6.1% above the five-year average, they are at their third highest level ever for this date.

Futures prices fell by 3.2 cents this week and settled at \$3.126/gal, \$1.003 (47.3%) above last year but \$1.069 (25.5%) below 2008's peak. Spot prices fell by 2.6 cents. They settled at \$3.079/gal, \$1.120 (57.1%) above last year but \$1.001 (24.5%) below their 2008 peak. Retail prices rose by 1.2 cents this week and by 12.2 cents over the past 4 weeks. Prices are now at \$3.791/gal, \$1.091 (40.4%) above a year ago. Prices are \$0.975 (20.5%) below their 2008 peak. The highest price in this week's survey was \$4.599 and the lowest was \$3.249. According to census data, 49.1% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with oil.



## Connecticut Regional Heating Oil Prices

|           | FAIRFIELD |       |       | HARTFORD |       |       | NEW LONDON |       |       |
|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|
|           | AVG       | HIGH  | LOW   | AVG      | HIGH  | LOW   | AVG        | HIGH  | LOW   |
| 2-Aug-10  | 2.838     | 3.199 | 2.400 | 2.670    | 3.199 | 2.199 | 2.678      | 2.850 | 2.480 |
| 11-Jul-11 | 3.882     | 4.599 | 3.540 | 3.770    | 4.299 | 3.349 | 3.663      | 3.750 | 3.460 |
| 18-Jul-11 | 3.898     | 4.599 | 3.540 | 3.776    | 4.299 | 3.449 | 3.720      | 3.860 | 3.460 |
| 25-Jul-11 | 3.941     | 4.599 | 3.590 | 3.777    | 4.299 | 3.249 | 3.721      | 3.860 | 3.460 |

|           | LITCHFIELD |       |       | MIDDLESEX |       |       | TOLLAND-WINDHAM |       |       |
|-----------|------------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|
|           | AVG        | HIGH  | LOW   | AVG       | HIGH  | LOW   | AVG             | HIGH  | LOW   |
| 2-Aug-10  | 2.663      | 2.729 | 2.559 | 2.762     | 2.899 | 2.640 | 2.639           | 2.799 | 2.449 |
| 11-Jul-11 | 3.743      | 3.899 | 3.499 | 3.824     | 3.999 | 3.690 | 3.649           | 3.799 | 3.439 |
| 18-Jul-11 | 3.777      | 3.899 | 3.599 | 3.842     | 3.999 | 3.690 | 3.708           | 3.819 | 3.469 |
| 25-Jul-11 | 3.789      | 3.949 | 3.599 | 3.854     | 3.999 | 3.690 | 3.706           | 3.799 | 3.469 |

|           | NEW HAVEN |       |       |
|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|
|           | AVG       | HIGH  | LOW   |
| 2-Aug-10  | 2.636     | 2.849 | 2.390 |
| 11-Jul-11 | 3.685     | 3.999 | 3.359 |
| 18-Jul-11 | 3.711     | 3.999 | 3.459 |
| 25-Jul-11 | 3.715     | 3.919 | 3.299 |

DEEP conducts a weekly survey of retail heating oil prices in Connecticut. These figures reference the most recent results of that survey for the reporting week beginning July 25, 2011. Figures reflect per gallon prices without discount.

For more information, go to:

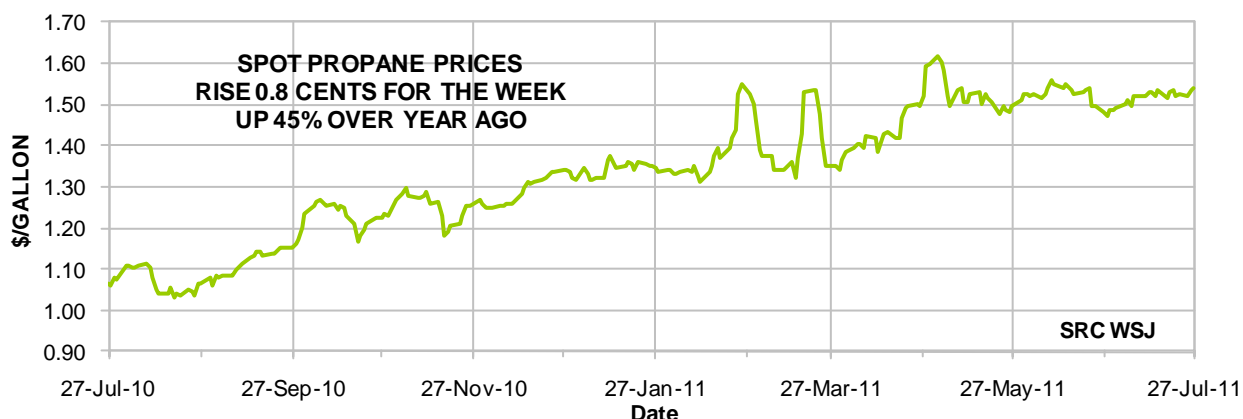
<http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=4120&Q=481600&deepNav=|>

# Propane



Propane inventories improved to only 8.9% below last year and to 10.8% below the 5-year average as they grew by 1.6 million barrels this past week. This week's inventory growth was 40% greater than the 5-year average of 1.2 million and almost three times last year's 0.58 million barrel gain. Cumulative injections over the past 13 weeks are running 5.2% below the 5-year average and 2.3% below last year.

Spot propane prices rose slightly by 0.8 cents/gal this past. Prices have risen by 5.4 cents over the past nine weeks. At \$1.541 per gallon, spot prices are 47.5 cents (44.6 %) higher than a year ago but they are 22.1% lower than their peak 2008 price. The usual reporting of Connecticut retail propane heating prices has been discontinued for the season but will resume in October. According to census data, propane is used to heat 2.7% of homes in Connecticut.



# Gasoline



Inventories grew by 1.0 million barrels this week as weak demand offset declines in production and imports. The inventory gain compares to a 5-year average decline of 0.8 million and it was 2 and ½ times the expected gain and 4 times last year's gain. Inventories have improved to 3.9% below last year and to 0.1% above the 5-year average.

Futures prices fell by 1.7 cents this past week. They are at \$2.976/gal, \$0.919 (44.7%) higher than last year but \$0.635 (17.6%) below their 2008 peak. Spot prices rose by 0.8 cents/gal to \$3.065/gal. They are \$1.074 (53.9%) higher than a year ago. Spot prices are 10.2% (\$0.347) below their 2008 peak. Connecticut retail prices rose by 2.4 cents this week and by 13.9 over the past three weeks. At \$4.050, prices are \$1.186 (41.4%) higher than a year ago. Retail prices are only 34.0 cents (7.7%) cents below their 2008 all time high of \$4.390.

